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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,228	09/30/2003	Masaaki Okabayashi	393032041600	6380

7590 08/18/2008  
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35th Floor  
555 W. 5th Street  
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EXAMINER
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LAO, LUN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/18/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/676,228	<b>Applicant(s)</b> OKABAYASHI, MASAAKI	
	<b>Examiner</b> LUN-SEE LAO	<b>Art Unit</b> 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Introduction***

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 05-27-2008. Claims 1-2 have been amended and claims 3-5 have been canceled. Claims 1-2 are pending.

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05-27-2008 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 2 recited "a controlling device that controls said checking signal input device so as to cause the first checking signals to be input to the buses assigned respectively odd numbers and the second checking signals to be input to the buses assigned respectively even numbers if said selecting device selects both the first checking signals and the second checking signals, and cause the first checking signals to be input to all

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of said plurality of buses if said selecting device selects only the first checking signals”,  
which is unclear to the examiner what is “if said selecting device selects both the first  
checking signals and the second checking signals, and cause the first checking signals  
to be input to all of said plurality of buses if said selecting device selects only the first  
checking signals” referring to.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Heyi (US PAT. 5,774,567).

Consider claim 1 Heyi teaches a signal switching apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of buses (see fig.3),  
each of said buses assigned a number (see fig.3);  
a first checking signal generating device (110) that generates first checking signals used for checking a left channel output path (1L);  
a second checking signal generating device (112) that generates second checking signals used for checking a right channel output path (1R), the first checking signals (W1<sub>1</sub>) and the second checking signals (W2<sub>2</sub>) different from each other; and a checking signal input device (110-116) that causes bus the first checking signals to be

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input to buses based on their respective odd numbered assignment (3 ) and causes the second checking signals to be input to buses based on their respective even (2 ) numbered assignment (see col. 4 line 18-col. 5 line 67).

Consider claim 2 as base on 112 second paragraph problem state above, Heyi teaches a signal switching further comprising:

a selecting device (see fig.3 ( 110-116)) that selects both the first checking signals (110) and the second checking signals (112) or only the first checking signals as checking signals to be input to said buses, and a controlling device that controls said checking signal input device so as to cause the first checking signals to be input to the buses assigned respectively odd numbers (3) and the second checking signals to be input to the buses assigned respectively even numbers (2) if said selecting device selects both the first checking signals and the second checking signals, and cause the first checking signals to be input to all of said plurality of buses if said selecting device selects only the first checking signals(see col. 4 line 18-col. 5 line 67).

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 2 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop \_\_\_\_ (explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:  
**(571) 273-8300**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lao,Lun-See whose telephone number is (571) 272-7501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin, can be reached on (571) 272-7848.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Lao,Lun-See  
/LUN-SEE LAO/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2615  
Patent Examiner  
US Patent and Trademark Office  
Knox  
571-272-7501  
Date 08-15-2008

/Suhan Ni/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614